

Laborer Is Charged In Slaying of Artist

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Mrs. Meyer Shot to Death On Towpath

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Mrs. Mary Pinchot Meyer, prominent Georgetown artist and a niece of a noted conservationist, was shot to death yesterday as she was walking on the C&O Canal towpath near Georgetown.

Washington police, who captured a suspect within an hour of the 12:45 p.m. shooting, said robbery was the apparent motive.

Mrs. Meyer, who would have been 44 tomorrow, was shot twice—in the left temple and in the chest.

Friends and relatives said the canal towpath was one of her favorite walks, one she often had used in the past with Mrs. John F. Kennedy, the wife of the late President.

Ex-Husband With CIA

The blonde victim, who had two sons, was the divorced wife of author Cord Meyer Jr., a writer and government employee. Her uncle, Gifford Pinchot, was one of the nation's most renowned conservationists. A founder of the forestry profession here, he headed the U.S. Forest Service under President Theodore Roosevelt and later served two terms as governor of Pennsylvania.

Police said a tow-truck driver, parked on Canal Road, saw a struggle between Mrs. Meyer and her slayer, heard two shots and saw the man bending over her body. He notified police.

In less than an hour police arrested the suspect, Raymond Crump Jr., 25, of the 1900 block of Stanton Terrace SE, soaking wet behind a rock in a wooded area beside the Potomac River near the slaying scene.



MRS. MARY PINCHOT MEYER

Father of 5 Children

Crump, a laborer and father of five children, was brought before U.S. Commissioner Sam Wertleb and held without bond on a murder charge. A hearing was set for Oct. 23.

At the commissioner's hearing, Crump told authorities he had been fishing.

Police were unable to identify Mrs. Meyer until several hours after the shooting. At first, the only clue to her identity was a glove found at the murder scene. The name Meyer was barely legible on the glove lining.

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Contacted all the Meyers in

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while in the 4300 block of Canal Road NW he saw a man and a woman struggling on the towpath, which is parallel to Canal Road. With him in his truck was another service station employe, Bill Branch.

"At first we heard some screaming, but we didn't pay much attention. . . . You know that area down there—it could have been some kids playing. Or it might have been a bunch of wineos fighting," Wiggins said. He and Branch were working on a car which had broken down on Canal Road.

Two Shots Heard

"I guess we heard screams for a couple of minutes, maybe less. But then they started getting worse, and we got curious. Then all of a sudden I heard a shot and I started across the road. As I was crossing the road, I heard another shot."

"As I reached that stone wall there at the edge of the road above the canal I saw this man standing over the top of a woman. He saw me, and I guess he was excited, but he wasn't hasty or anything. He just shoved something in his pocket and looked at me for a couple seconds and then he went over the bank down into the woods. He took his time, but he was moving."

Wiggins said he didn't see the bullet wound immediately.

"The woman was lying there on her side with her legs curled up."

Drives to Get Policeman

Wiggins dashed for his truck, drove half a mile or less to the Key Bridge intersection and hailed a policeman, Pvt. James Scouloukas. The policeman and Wiggins then returned to the shooting scene. Within minutes, Pvt. Scouloukas used his scout car radio to broadcast a description of the slayer.

Squad cars covered the exit routes from the canal at Key Bridge and at Fletcher's Boat-house. A dozen or more policemen began searching the woods and the river.

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This is the scene along the C&O Canal minutes after Mrs. Mary Pinchot Meyer was shot yesterday. Uniformed officers

and detectives arrived within minutes, checking for possible clues and a weapon.—Star Staff Photo by Walter Oates.

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Ray Crump, 25, charged with the murder, is led into police headquarters by Pvt. James Manuel.—Star Staff Photo by Tom Hoy.

that his wife later identified it as his.

When they picked up the suspect, police found neither a gun nor a fishing pole. They said they found the suspect's fishing rod at his home.

At his hearing before Commissioner Wertleb, Crump said: "I don't know why I'm here. I was down there fishing and lost my rod — I don't know what happened. I almost got shot myself."

Early today a squad of some 30 Metropolitan policemen and members of the Park Police force began a rock-by-rock search of the canal area in an attempt to find the murder gun. Park Police planned to have

Navy divers was being considered.

Mrs. Meyer, a Vassar graduate, and her husband moved to Washington in the early 1950s. Mr. Meyer, shortly after Marine Corps service in World War II, wrote "Peace or Anarchy," a plea for nuclear age disarmament and world federalism. He was a founder of the United World Federalists.

The Meyers were divorced about five years ago but both maintained homes in Georgetown. Their two sons are Quentin, 18, a student at Salisbury Preparatory School at Salisbury, Conn., and Mark, 14, a student at the Milton (Mass.) Academy.

Studio on N Street

Mrs. Meyer's brother-in-law said her paintings have been exhibited at the Pan American Union and at the Jefferson Place Gallery at 1216 Connecticut Ave. NW. She concentrated principally on abstract art.

Her Georgetown studio is at the rear of 3325 N St. NW, in premises loaned to her by her brother-in-law.

Mrs. Meyer's father, the late Amos Pinchot, was a founder of the Progressive Party. Her mother still resides in New York City.

When she was found yesterday, Mrs. Meyer was dressed for hiking in tennis shoes, slacks and two or three sweat-

that before being shot, she suffered bruises, apparently in a struggle with her killer.